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LONDON, July 5, 1944.

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SECRET

No.622.

Subject: Attaching copy of report entitled "The reconstruction of the Bulgarian Cabinet".

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to attach hereto copy of report entitled "The reconstruction of the Bulgarian Cabinet" under dateline Istanbul, June 14, 1944, made available by the Chief of Polish Political Intelligence.

Respectfully yours,

Rudolf E. Schoenfeld,
Charge d'Affaires ad interim

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To the Department in original and hectograph.

Enclosure:
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Enclosure No.1 to Despatch Polish Series No.622
July 5, 1944.

SECRET Istanbul, June 14th, 1944.

The reconstruction of the Bulgarian Cabinet

According to the opinion of Balken circles in Turkey, Professor Kostov's resignation whose post has been taken over by Rusi Rusev, and the nomination of three new Ministers has lent the present Bulgarian an outstandingly pro-German character. These changes do not, however, affect the relationship which exists between the Cabinet and the dynasty.

Amongst the difficulties with which the new Cabinet is faced, the foremost is the necessity to master the internal situation which has become extremely tense, and the liquidation of the acute crisis existing among the Officers, and finally the establishment of proper relationship between the Government and Parliament. The new Prime Minister, according to the general opinion, is not popular with Parliament, and the deputies, especially in view of the growing signs that the population is getting more and more hostile to the Germans, begin to break loose from the Government's lead.

The greatest attention is thus given to the fact that Slaveyko Vasilev took over the post of Minister of Public Works. Colonel S. Vasilev has been connected with the Bulgarian Fascist movement since its beginning. In 1920 he was one of the leaders of Cankov's Party, in whose Cabinet he held the post of Minister of Public Works. He was elected member of Parliament for the second time; in the former one he was chairman of the Military Affairs Commission, whereas in the present time he held the same position in the Public Works Commission. For the last 8 years Vasilev has been chairman of the Reserve Officers' Association, and lately became elected chairman of the Union of all Reservists' Associations. His joining the Cabinet may facilitate the reaching of an understanding with Parliament and the newly formed Party, the so-called "Social Power", in the organization of which the Union of Reservists' Associations took an active part.

Alexander Staliyski, the new Minister of Justice, is pro-German without reservation. He took his doctor's degree in Germany and is known in Bulgaria as a theoritician of the Fascist creed. For many years he has been Secretary of the Lawyers' Association, and member of Parliament from the Cankov's group in 1923-1927.

The nomination of Draganov, the Bulgarian Minister in Madrid, to the post of Minister for Foreign Affairs, is generally commented upon as a proof that the foreign affairs will be left with the Royal family. Draganov, who for many years was King Boris's aide-de-camp and enjoyed the fullest confidence of the deceased King, is very acceptable for the Germans. A week before the Anschluss he was transferred from Vienna to Berlin, where he worked out the scheme for the future German-Bulgarian collaboration. The last two years he spent in Madrid as Bulgarian Minister.

The present reconstruction of the Cabinet seems to indicate that Prince Cyril's influence is increasing and that of Ilov weakening.

Political observers underline the fact that a Macedonian has been introduced into the Cabinet on the important post of Minister of the Interior. It is characteristic because during all critical periods of Bulgarian history it was always Macedonians who supported the throne.

Central File: Decimal File 774.002, Political Relations Of States, Relations; Bi-Lateral Treaties., Bulgaria And The World, Commerce And Navigation., July 5, 1944 - June 14th, 1944. June 14, 1944 - July 5, 1944. MS Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1930-1944: Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States, 1940-1944. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5111395313%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 23 June 2025.